

REMARKS

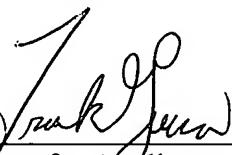
Claims 40-60 have been added. Claims 40, 46, 52, and 58 are independent.

Claim 40 has been amended to even further clarify the claimed subject matter, and also to correct a typographical error. Claim 41 has been amended to ensure that there is proper antecedent basis for "plurality of carbon fibers", and Claims 42 has been amended to correct a typographical error.<sup>1/</sup> Claims 46-60 have been added to provide Applicant with a more complete scope of protection.

Favorable consideration and early passage to issue of this application are requested.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our New York office by telephone at (212) 218-2100. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below listed address.

Respectfully submitted,

  
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1/ The amendments have not been made for purposes relating to patentability, and no change in scope is either intended or believed to be effected by at least the changes made to recitations of Claims 41 and 42.